

The Jerusalem Post WEATHER

TUNE TO THE BACKWEB THE JERUSALEM POST CHANNEL

THE JERUSALEM POST

Selling? Buying? Hiring? Do it through THE JERUSALEM POST Classifieds

VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19768 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1997 • HESHVAN 6, 5758 • 6 RAJAB 1418 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.85)

A donkey's view of the Negev Travel, page 17

A toast to the green and gold Food, Page 16

Demi Moore joins the US Navy Weekender, Page 15

Index Business 10 Crossword 19 Movies/TV 19 Opinion 8 Sports 13 Weekender 15

Gov't to weigh publication of secret Shamgar appendix

By LIAT COLLINS Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom yesterday told the Knesset that the prime minister had set up a professional team to examine whether to publish classified parts of the Shamgar Commission's report on the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

prosecute Avishai Raviv, the GSS operative accused of heading right-wing groups involved in incitement and anti-Arab attacks leading up to the assassination. Rubinstein said there is no immunity clause in Raviv's file to prevent him from facing charges. He expects to decide within a few weeks whether to prosecute Raviv on charges of knowing about the assassination plot and failing to try to prevent it.

to hold another debate on these issues. MK David Azulai of Shas denounced Raviv as "the biggest provocateur in the history of the state," and asked where he had disappeared after the assassination. Azulai also inquired about a report by Arutz 7 claiming that Raviv was being paid a monthly stipend of NIS 9,300. "The mysterious cry of 'Blanks, blanks,' [reportedly heard after the shots at Rabin] which remains unclear to this day - who said it? Who sent the beeper messages [to journalists immediately after the assassination] saying: 'This time we failed?'" Azulai asked.

newspaper "dangerous." MK Hashem Mahameed of Hadash said he had been threatened with death by Raviv and asked: "How many more wild weeds are there like him still in the GSS?" Molelet leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi said the question of Raviv could not be allowed to drop and would naturally arise every year around the anniversary of Rabin's assassination. Ariele O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Israel-PA talks may recess today By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies



Palestinian schoolboys carrying Israeli and Palestinian flags shout pro-Saddam Hussein slogans during a demonstration organized by their school administrators at Bethlehem's Dehaishe refugee camp.

Baghdad opposition sources: PA hiding Iraqi arms secrets

WASHINGTON - Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are likely to recess today after less than a week, an Israeli official said yesterday. The sides were to decide last night or today when and where to reconvene, he said. Full-fledged discussions began here yesterday after two additional Palestinian negotiators arrived, following American pressure that they were needed to help close deals on several interim-status matters. Three sub-committees met at a State Department campus outside the city on establishing a Gaza airport, a safe-passage route between Gaza and the West Bank, and building an industrial park at Kanni.

UN, Iraq to resume talks today

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq and the United Nations will meet for another round of talks today on Baghdad's order barring Americans from arms inspection teams in Iraq, the leader of the UN team said yesterday. UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said he was pleased that Iraq had agreed to delay the expulsion of the US inspectors until his team had finished its work and reported back to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. "I would like to record my appreciation for the fact that Iraq suspended their decision to exclude [American] members of the UN inspection team, which allowed these discussions to be more relaxed," Brahimi told reporters after the second round of talks. He said Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz had briefed the team on Iraq's position during yesterday's two sessions. "We listened to their grievances

and to the point of view they wished to explain. We are going to see them again tomorrow and continue the discussions," he said. There was no comment from the government on the talks. Brahimi earlier told reporters the first session of talks had ended "with a very nice atmosphere." He declined to discuss the contents of a letter from Annan to President Saddam Hussein, which had been handed to Aziz. The UN diplomatic mission follows Baghdad's decision last week to expel 10 Americans among a 100-member UN arms inspection team.

By JAY BUSHINSKY The Palestinian Authority's embassy in Baghdad is being used as a repository for secret documents that relate to Iraq's buildup of unconventional weapons, Iraqi opposition sources said yesterday. They said the site's diplomatic immunity evidently keeps the documents beyond the reach of UN arms inspectors. The documents relate to the purchase of raw materials required for Iraq's manufacture and deployment of weapons of mass destruction, a senior figure in the underground movement to overthrow President Saddam Hussein said. He attributed his knowledge of the documents' contents to "sources inside Iraqi intelligence." PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's political adviser Nabil Amr said, "I have no idea about this information." Asked if it was conceivable that the embassy could be used to hide sensitive Iraqi documents, he declined to comment. The PA embassy is situated in Arafat's private residence in Baghdad, a heavily guarded palatial structure well inside a compound. "The material is in Yasser Arafat's house," the Iraqi exile said. "It's a fact." One of the Iraqi opposition groups' American sympathizers, who worked with them in London from 1991 to 1994 and recently resumed activity on their behalf in Washington, said the hidden documents refer to Iraq's chemical weapons, VX nerve gas, and possibly nuclear arms. Arafat's residence, "which has just been designated as the PA embassy," he went on, has extraterritorial status and therefore "it is difficult for the UN arms inspectors to make a fuss about it." Speaking for the Iraqi opposition, the source said, "we have had agents at the site who could see that the embassy building is used to hide documents." He said the nerve gas is stored in a solid state, "like salt," and probably is deposited in the Iraqi desert. The alleged existence of secret repositories which effectively are off limits to the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) was reported to its British chairman, Richard Butler, in a confidential letter sent by the Iraqi exiles on September 16. Its text contains these passages: "We learned certain information from sources in Baghdad which will be of use to you. 'We believe there are documents regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction hidden in St. Joseph's Church in the Dora district. The church is on the main street across from the Assyrian market.' 'There are also important documents being stored at the Baghdad residence of President Yasser Arafat in the Jadriya district.' The cordial relations between the PA and Saddam's regime are borne out by a report in the Palestinian press this week that \$100 million in aid from the Iraqi government is being blocked by the UN. Sources here believe Iraq is interested in exporting oil to the PA through Jordan in addition to providing monetary assistance or as a substitute for it, but this is being prevented by Israel. "It could be a lucrative proposition for all the parties concerned," a source said, "Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and the PA." Elements of the Palestinian Police were trained in Iraq "and the Iraqi government pays the PA for using camps on Iraqi soil," the source went on, contending that Iraq has been actively involved in preparing terrorists for missions which it initiates. "Arafat never stopped his relations with Iraqi intelligence," a Palestinian familiar with the inner workings of the PA said. He said Arafat's reported meeting in Amman with Iraq's ambassador on August 8 "actually was with a senior Iraqi intelligence officer. The Iraqi Embassy was the logical venue, because Iraqi intelligence personnel never stay in hotels when they are abroad." Mohammed Najib adds: Five Palestinian organizations sent a joint message to Saddam yesterday stating their opposition to American "aggression" against Iraq. They also called on the UN to lift its sanctions. The message was signed by representatives of Fatah, the PFLP, DFPLP, Popular Struggle, and the Arab Liberation Front.

UN suspects Iraq of tampering with cameras

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Iraq may have moved material away from UN observation cameras of tampered with the cameras themselves, the chief UN inspector reported yesterday. Richard Butler, chairman of the UN Special Commission in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, said the equipment included items that could be used to balance forbidden missile gyroscopes. He made the statements in a letter to the Security Council. UN arms inspectors have a monitoring system in Iraq for so-called dual use equipment that could be used in dangerous weapons as well as for civilian use. In his letter, Butler said that "significant pieces of dual-capable equipment, subject to monitoring by the commission's remote camera monitoring system have been moved out of view of the cameras." Furthermore, it appears that cameras may have been intentionally tampered with, lenses covered, and lighting turned off in the facilities under monitoring. He said UN staff intends to inspect two of the facilities concerned today to try to find the equipment that had been moved.

German court finds for one of 21 slave laborers

By ELLI WOHLGELER, ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER, and news agencies A German court yesterday found that only one claimant who worked as a slave laborer at an Auschwitz munitions factory should be paid \$8,690, but that the other 20 women who filed for remuneration had already been compensated.

"We welcome the decision, which recognizes in principle the obligation to compensate Holocaust survivors for the slave labor they were forced to render," said Saul Kagan, executive vice president of the Claims Conference. "However, we are disappointed that the court excluded survivors who received compensation previously." Rywka Merin, who emigrated to Israel in the late 1960s, was entitled to compensation, the court said. It found that as a former East Bloc resident she had been unable to apply for funds under the 1953 German Indemnification Law. The other claimants - from Israel, the US, Canada, and Germany - were compensated under that law, the court found. The verdict could set a precedent allowing more slave labor survivors from East Bloc nations to claim compensation from Germany. Those who lost yesterday said they would appeal. Henryka Shejberg, 72, of Tel Aviv, said they would "fight for whatever it takes" to be compensated. "Obviously, the decision was very disappointing and we are very unhappy. We were not asking for any gifts, any handouts. This was money we earned," said Shejberg, who lost her parents and seven brothers and sisters in the Holocaust. She also had to have toes amputated after they froze on a "death march" from Auschwitz. "Frankly, if you ask me, I think it bothers them that we continue to stay alive for so long, fighting to be given what we deserve," Shejberg asserted. She and the other claimants worked at the Union Munitions factory while interned at

Auschwitz from 1943 to 1945. As young girls at the time, the laborers, all Jewish, suffered 12 hour work days, six days a week for 27 to 68 weeks. In all, about 7 million slave laborers were forced to work for Nazi Germany during the war. Thousands of Holocaust victims and former slave laborers in the former East Bloc have yet to receive compensation from Germany, Judge Heinz Sonnenberger said. He said it was not the court's duty to determine the fate of all these claims, but rather "a political issue for which legislators could find a new ruling." The case took six years to reach a verdict. Germany has previously refused to honor wage claims by slave workers, alleging that they worked for private companies. Germany has paid more than \$58 billion in reparations to Nazi victims. It is now reluctantly involved in negotiations to compensate survivors in central and eastern Europe. Moshe Zambar, chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, said "this decision sounds reasonable for one part of the claimants and very astonishing for the other." He estimated that the ruling could affect between 50,000 and 150,000 survivors. Bonn has insisted that, under current legislation, no one is entitled to compensation purely for forced labor, but possibly for suffering damage to their health or loss of income. Some major German industrial firms, including Siemens and Mercedes-Benz, have paid reparations to wartime laborers.

US bill would publish war criminals' records

By SLOBODAN LEKIC WASHINGTON (AP) - A bill that would make public all US government records on Nazi war criminals compiled since World War II was introduced in the Senate yesterday. "The time has come for the United States to lift the last remaining veils of secrecy on one of the darkest periods in human history," said Sen. Mike DeWine, a bill cosponsor. The legislation would complete an effort started last year, when Congress passed a non-binding resolution urging government agencies to open those records. President Clinton praised the resolution, saying it was "clearly in our public interest to learn any remaining secrets about the Holocaust." The bill would amend the Freedom of Information Act to suspend restrictions on disclosure of information for Nazi-related materials.



MARVIN WINDOWS & DOORS

Real Estate

FROM ISRAEL

Books reduced prices

**NEWS**

in brief

**PA to answer extradition requests**

The Palestinians have agreed to respond next month to 26 extradition requests, although no suspect has been extradited since the Oslo Accords. The answers will be given when the joint Israeli-Palestinian legal committee meets, the Justice Ministry said last night.

This emerged from talks between Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and his Palestinian counterpart, Freih Abu-Medien. The meeting was also attended by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein. The two sides agreed to set up two sub-committees to deal with civil legal matters and with questions relating to prisoners, ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said. *Batsheva Tsar*

**IAF rejects new technology parts for F-15I**

The Israel Air Force has refused new technology parts for the F-15I fighter jet, because it cannot afford them, although defense executives say these parts could save the air force money and improve performance of the \$88 million plane.

Boeing vice president James Finnitt said Boeing is trying to establish an Israeli company to supply the cost-reducing components to the IAF.

The first of 25 F-15Is, in a \$2.5 billion contract awarded in 1994, will be displayed in a ceremony today attended by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and senior executives of Boeing, which merged last August with McDonnell Douglas, maker of the F-15. *Steve Rodan*

**Vilnai says he has great respect for Palestinians**

In an interview with Israel Radio, Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai, who said the Palestinians had "the brains of a pigeon," clarified his remarks made to high school students in Eilat on Monday.

Vilnai said yesterday that he had referred to suicide bombers and that he had great respect for the Palestinian people and their leaders.

"It is impossible that three Gazans with the brain of a pigeon, a kindergarten education, idiots - and I know some of them - will strike us and we will back down," Vilnai was quoted as saying. "When a terrorist hears whining and arguments within a society it gives him the feeling of success," he said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

**KITTY CASPER**

Widow of the late South African Chief Rabbi passed away in Jerusalem on November 4

deeply mourned  
H. Saenger  
On behalf of the South African Jewish Community

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dearest  
**LEAH (Leika) GOODMAN**

Beloved wife of Alan  
Mother of Saranna, Naomi, Mali, Hila and David  
Sister of Musha and Yudke,  
Dearly loved grandmother  
The funeral will take place today, Thursday, November 6, 1997 at 3 p.m. at the Savoyon Cemetery, Shiva at 26 Magal Street, Savoyon.

The Jerusalem Foundation  
deeply mourns the passing of  
**BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD**  
a dear friend of Jerusalem  
and sends condolences to  
Baroness Nadine de Rothschild and  
his son, Benjamin de Rothschild.

The leadership and staff of  
**ISRAEL BONDS**  
mourn the death of  
**BARON EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD**  
a long-time and generous supporter  
of Israel's economic development.  
His warmth, leadership and great contributions to Israel  
and the world Jewish community will be sorely missed.  
Our heartfelt condolences to his wife,  
Baroness Nadine de Rothschild, and their son Benjamin.

With deep sorrow, the family announces the loss of the beloved  
**EVER HAGGIAG**  
who died in Rome on November 4, 1997 (5 Heshvan 5758).  
The funeral will be held in Jerusalem today, Thursday, November 6,  
leaving from Ben-Gurion Airport at 5 p.m. for Har Hazeitim, Jerusalem.  
(Hevra Kaddisha Le'adat Habavlim)

**Hussein loyalists victorious in Jordanian general election**

AMMAN (AP) - Tribal leaders loyal to the monarchy defeated Moslem fundamentalists in Tuesday's parliamentary elections. With the vote count complete, the tribal chiefs won 68 seats in the 80-member lower house of parliament. Independent fundamentalist candidates and their leftist allies won only 12, after a major Islamic party boycotted the vote. All 17 women among the 524 candidates lost.

Among the victors was Mansour Seifeddine Murad, a former terrorist who was jailed in Greece for a 1969 hand grenade attack on the Athens office of El Al that killed a child. Murad was freed in 1970 in exchange for 55 hostages aboard a hijacked Olympic Airways plane. The results of Tuesday's vote strengthened Hussein's rule and dealt a severe blow to the fundamentalists and leftists who oppose his pro-Western style and the peace treaty with Israel. "I promise the people that I will

serve this country and its leadership," declared Abdullah Aqayleh, a leader of the Islamic Action Front, who was dismissed for ignoring his fundamentalist party's boycott and running in the election. Aqayleh is also a tribal leader and like other tribal chiefs has deep loyalty to Hussein, who has given tribes senior government and army posts, free education and health services, and large tracts of lands to settle. Tuesday's vote was for the lower

house, known formally as the Chamber of Deputies. The 40-member upper house is appointed by the king. The parliament has more powers than most Arab legislatures. It adopts laws and can unseat governments, but the king has the power to veto its actions, dissolve it, and rule by decree. Because of these limitations, the parliament is seen by voters more as a forum for voicing local grievances than a symbol of democracy.

"People are more preoccupied with bread-and-butter issues," said Ala'a Tadrus, 47, a tire shop owner in Salt. "Leave politics on the side. I want to feed my kids. Why should I care otherwise?" Tadrus said, adding that he did not vote. The fundamentalist Islamic Action Front and eight other leftist and pan-Arab nationalist parties said their boycott of the polls was a protest against the government's restrictions on public freedoms, its economic policies, and the peace treaty with Israel.



**Maryland remembers Holocaust**

Maryland Governor Parris Glendening and Suzanne Cohen, a member of his state's trade delegation, lay a wreath at Yad Vashem yesterday. Glendening will be meeting with local officials, including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, this week. (AP)

**Kahane Hai activist's retrial opens**

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The trial of Kahane Hai activist David Axelrod was reopened yesterday in Kfar Sava Magistrate's Court eight months after he was acquitted of charges of praising violent acts. In an interview on Channel 1 a day after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Axelrod said he was happy to hear that the wicked man had been murdered and that he and his friends had drunk a toast. In the same interview, he said he was against violence, especially

violence in the Land of Israel. Judge David Mualem, who presided over the hearing, ruled Axelrod's words did not encourage violence although they were unacceptable to society. Mualem stressed that in a democratic society, there is freedom of speech. The state appealed the ruling, and the case was bought before Judge Gabriela Levy yesterday. Levy postponed the hearing until January. Axelrod told reporters that "many incited against Rabbi Meir Kahane, and when he was murdered in the US charges were not brought against any of those people."

Axelrod's case should not be confused with that of David Axelrod (Srotsky), who also lives in Tapuah and was acquitted by Mualem of similar charges on Sunday. His acquittal, for expressing joy at Rabin's murder in an interview with Israel Radio shortly after the assassination, aroused anger in both legal and political spheres. The State Attorney's Office said it is considering appealing the verdict.

**Poll: We haven't learned from Rabin murder**

Two years after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, nearly 41 percent of Israelis feel that neither the religious nor the secular have done sufficient soul-searching over the event or have learned practical lessons from it. This is one of the findings from a poll commissioned by the Gesher association, which promotes understanding between the secular and religious. The survey found that 45% of the secular respondents have this view, which is shared by 38% of the religious. Asked who they thought did more soul-searching,

40.8% said no one; but 23.7% said the secular and 14.3% said the religious. Another 17.8% said both groups performed introspection equally following the murder and 3.4% had no opinion. Asked who they thought should have done soul-searching, 60% responded that both the secular and religious should have done so equally; 20.3% said the religious should have done so more than the secular; 8% said only the religious; 6.3% said the secular more than the religious; 1.4% said only the secular; and 4% had no opinion. (Iim)

Only 22.6% agreed or strongly agreed, and 8.8% had no clear opinion. When the answers are divided according to Left-Right self-definition, 44.8% of the rightists agree with the statement, as against 5.7% of the leftists and 10.1% in the Center. Other poll results showed that approximately 50% believe there

**NEWSLINE**

with Prof. Asher Susser

By DAVID RUDGE

**Has the outcome of the Parliamentary elections in Jordan created any major changes?**  
It has not changed anything in terms of the stability of the regime. The results, however, do reflect a disenchantment that exists in significant sections of the population about a variety of issues.

**Was the boycott the prime reason for the relatively low turnout?**  
It was certainly a contributing factor, but not the only one. The decreased turnout also reflects disaffection with the manner in which the parliament has conducted itself and the sense among Jordanians that it has not been very effective.

**What were the main items of disaffection that were raised in the elections?**  
One point is a general disaffection with the economic situation which has improved on the macro level but has not trickled down to the man in the street. Unemployment is still high and rising prices are challenging the standard of living rather than raising it as one would expect.

**Another is the peace process. Were you surprised that there would be a peace dividend from the accord with Israel?**  
This has not happened. The election of Prime Minister Netanyahu, the halting of the Palestinian track and the Mashaal affair have resulted in the peace process being criticized by a wider segment of the population than when the treaty was signed. The peace process was certainly a factor in the elections but I would not say that it was point number one.

**Has the composition of the parliament changed as a result of the elections?**  
The opposition has lost about half of the power they had in the previous parliament.

**Is the criticism of the peace treaty with Israel high on the list?**  
The number of people who believe in the Islamist solution today is not as high as it was in 1989. This may also be true in other countries.

**Was the boycott of the elections by the Islamic fundamentalists solely a demonstration of dissatisfaction?**  
They may have feared that their popularity had declined and that this could be exposed in the elections.

**Has the composition of the parliament changed as a result of the elections?**  
The opposition has lost about half of the power they had in the previous parliament.

*Prof. Susser is a senior fellow at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies*

**Most oppose Netanyahu's remark on Left's Jewishness**

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A decisive majority of the public is opposed to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's recent assertion that the Left "has forgotten what it means to be a Jew." According to a Peace Index poll, conducted on October 29, 68.5 percent of the public is opposed or strongly opposed to Netanyahu's statement. Only 22.6% agreed or strongly agreed, and 8.8% had no clear opinion. When the answers are divided according to Left-Right self-definition, 44.8% of the rightists agree with the statement, as against 5.7% of the leftists and 10.1% in the Center. Other poll results showed that approximately 50% believe there

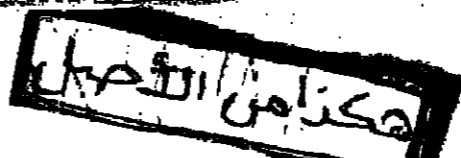
is no difference between Left and Right in concern for national security. However, according to prevailing belief, the democratic character of the state is more important to the Left (45%) than to the Right (16.5%); while 28% said the two sides value democracy equally. Opinion is also divided on how the peace process has influenced relations between secular and religious Jews. Only a few believe it has led to rapprochement, while 44% believe it has had no influence and 42% believe it has increased the distance between the two groups. Of those polled, 37.5% declared themselves rightists, 32% leftists, 20.4% in the Center, and the rest did not know.

**Syria says peace possible within three months**

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said yesterday that peace could be reached within three months if Israel returns the Golan Heights. "If Israel also wants peace let it withdraw and this could lead to a peace agreement within three months," he said in an interview with Lebanon's private Future Television. "It is natural that if we are faced with aggression, that aggression will not be a picnic." Meanwhile, President Hafez Assad yesterday welcomed a European role in pushing the Middle East peace process forward, his spokesman said. The official Syrian news agency SANA quoted European Union envoy Miguel Moratinos as saying after talks with Foreign Minister Farouk Shara that Europe wanted to play an active role in the Middle East peace process. Assad's spokesman, Joubran

Kourieh, said in a statement that Assad "welcomed an effective European role in the peace process that would push the process towards its goal in achieving just and comprehensive peace." Moratinos explained the European Union views over the current situation and the efforts it is exerting to break the deadlock and push the process forward, Kourieh added. Moratinos said the EU wants to see "a resumption of negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track as soon as possible. The EU is completely committed to work to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region. And I have assured [Shara] that the EU is trying hard to play an active role," SANA quoted Moratinos as saying. It said Shara renewed Syria's demand to resume peace talks from where they left off with the previous Israeli Labor government.

**The Shadchanit Convention**  
All Torah-observant women welcome.  
Open to professionals and non-professionals alike.  
Tuesday, November 11  
Morning sessions 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Evening sessions 8 - 10 p.m.  
NIS 10 entrance fee  
13 Rehov Azza, Rechavia  
For more information call 02-5831161 or 02-5618628  
Listen to Arutz 7, 711 and 1143 AM 105 FM



Swiss office would  
Weizman to head  
HEBREW PRESS  
It's time with our  
Gesher: A br

# Swiss officials deny proposed foundation would exclude Holocaust survivors

By MARILYN HENRY

Swiss officials yesterday denied reports that a proposed \$5 billion "Solidarity Foundation" would exclude assistance to Holocaust survivors.

week that priority be given to projects aimed at preventing violence, rather than aiding individuals. "No group is excluded," a Swiss Foreign Ministry source said.

Avraham Burg said yesterday he "would go to the ends of the earth not to permit such a fund to be established," if Holocaust survivors were excluded.

The foundation, being established next year, would benefit Swiss and non-Swiss victims of genocide, disaster and human rights abuses, according to Swiss President Arnold Koller.

The other charity, the "humanitarian fund," made up of contributions from Swiss banks and industry, was established March 1 to help needy survivors, Jews and non-Jews alike.

# Weizman, chief rabbis: It's time to heal religious-secular rift

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman and the two chief rabbis yesterday issued appeals on the second anniversary of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination for greater understanding between religious and secular Jews.



President Ezer Weizman shakes hands with one of the religious court judges sworn in yesterday at Beit Hanassi. (Efraim Kibitok)

"There are a great deal of differences of opinions between the religious and the secular and we should all take this memorial week as a time for soul-searching," Weizman said.

Weizman spoke during a swearing-in ceremony for five new religious court judges at Beit Hanassi.

"It is no secret that the nation is divided in two. There is a deep schism, there is hatred. Particularly this week, we have heard far too much about deepening chasms and far too little about tolerance and bridging differences," Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, said.

ology" as "an unequal desecration of God's name. "Everything possible must be done in order to correct this," he said.

mandment and it is our duty to see it is upheld. We must extinguish hatred by showing human kindness." Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer added: "No-

one is permitted to kill in the name of religion. It must be absolutely clear that it is not possible to try to change the path of history by killing a prime minister."

# Bereaved family accuses town of fraud

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The chief engineer of the Migdal Ha'emek Municipality has been suspended on suspicion of obtaining funds for the city for a memorial park that was built privately by a bereaved family.

The Balalti family was allocated an unused field next to their house, which they converted into a memorial park for their son, Staff-Sgt. Rafi Balalti, and 72 other servicemen killed in the helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv in February.

Amor then asked the municipality's comptroller to carry out an investigation. Amor said yesterday he had "automatically" signed the form presented him by the engineer and did not notice what it referred to.

# NEWS in brief

**MKs approve long school-day for 100 localities**  
A long school-day will be operated in 100 localities throughout the country starting January 1, the Knesset Education Committee decided yesterday.

**Rabin memorial website launched**  
A permanent, on-line memorial site for Yitzhak Rabin, which has an index of all other Internet sites on the assassinated premier, was launched this week by CoralNet.

**Canadian foreign minister to visit**  
Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy will visit Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and five other Middle Eastern states next week in an effort to drum up support for the international convention against the use of anti-personnel mines.

**Kashrut complaint line launched**  
The Chief Rabbinate has instituted a 24-hour telephone service to field complaints about kashrut fraud. According to the law, any business or food product advertising itself as kosher must have a certificate from the local rabbinat.

**Jerusalem-TA rail service suspended further**  
Train service between the capital and Tel Aviv has been further suspended following the discovery of defects in the line. Service was halted last week after a second derailment near Bar Giora.

**Police seize unauthorized reptiles**  
Police confiscated 35 reptiles from the home of a tour guide in Kiryat Arba on Tuesday. The reptiles were handed over to Nature Authority officials.

# HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

**Conspiracy theory**  
Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's appeal to the prime minister to investigate the suspicions of General Security Service involvement in the Rabin assassination raised in a *Hatzofeh* article provoked media tumult.

**It's time we made peace with our worst enemy. Ourselves.**  
Be part of a dialogue, in English, on November 9th, at the Geshet Center in Jerusalem and locations across the country.  
See our ad in tomorrow's *Jerusalem Post*  
**Geshet: A bridge to Jewish unity**

**To reach**  
In the race to enchant you most, the region of Ladakh acts fast. Everything exhilarates in this strange lunar landscape high in the Himalayas: the climate, the castles, the colourful people. In the desert state of Rajasthan, life in the glittering palaces will also excite, but at a more courtly pace. For total well-being, some of both is recommended.

New ideas, new facts, new colourful itineraries. Write now!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

India Tourist Office  
Sharbat House E-5, 4 Kaufman Street  
Tel Aviv 68012, Israel  
Tel. 03/5101407, Fax 03/5100894

**India**  
WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK









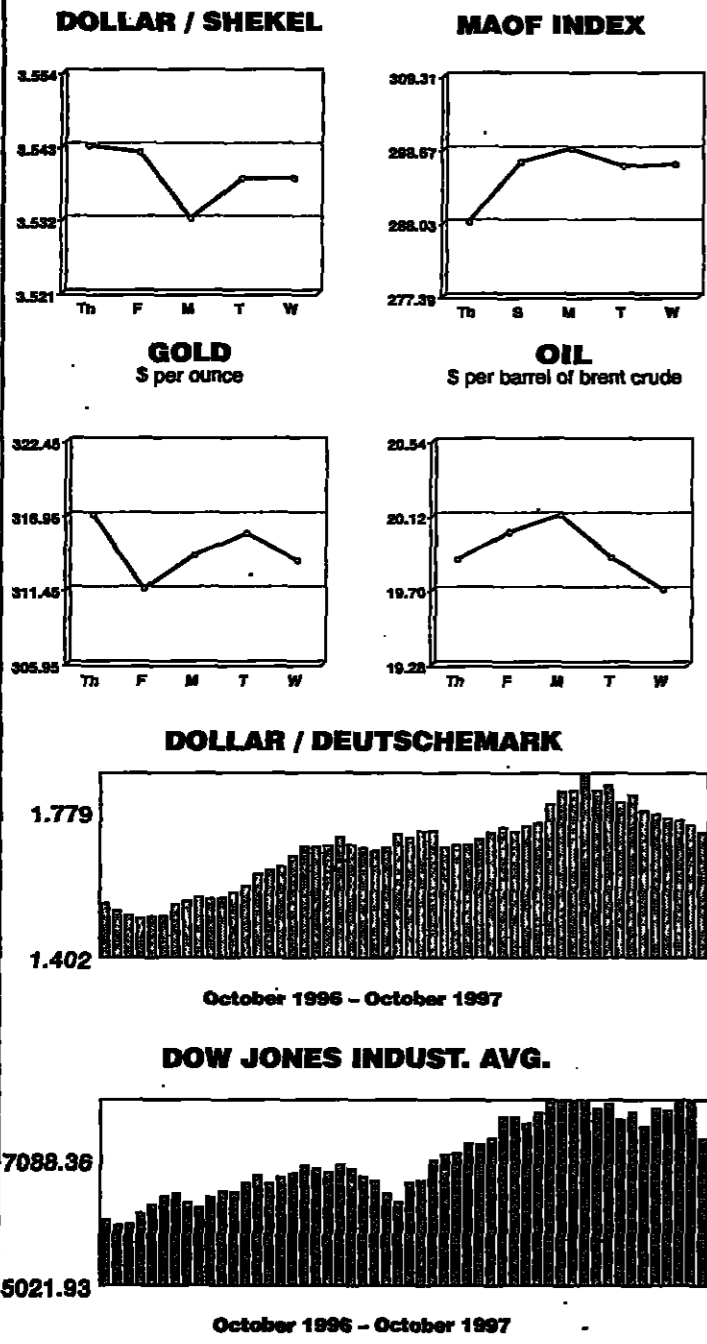






## MARKETS

in brief



### Israel to host int'l electronics conference

Israel will host the third international electronic industry organizations' annual conference next week - becoming the first country outside the US to stage the event. Delegates from 17 countries are expected.

The industry is estimated to be worth an annual \$1,000 billion worldwide.

David Harris

### Motor vehicle insurance system faces overhaul

Insurance Supervisor Doron Shorer said this week he was examining ways to establish a central registry for information about motor vehicle insurance.

It is the first step of a plan for widespread reform of the motor insurance industry.

David Harris

### PA, Israeli flowers to be exported separately

Flowers exported from Palestinian self-rule areas will be sold separately from those exported by Israel, the Flower Marketing Board's senior officer, Ya'akov Siron, has decided.

The decision, going into effect this month with the start of the export season, follows losses of NIS 5 million sustained by Israeli producers because of former customs arrangements with the Palestinian Authority.

David Harris

## C&W mulls future of Bezeq stake

### UK telecom giant cites government footdragging as obstacle to more activity

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and DAVID HARRIS

If the government continues to put off Cable & Wireless' request to double its holding in Bezeq from 10 percent to 20%, the British telecommunications giant may consider selling its holding, a C&W representative said yesterday.

"Getting rid of a holding is always an option," said Azriel Nevo, who serves as C&W's representative on Bezeq's board of directors.

When C&W approached the

government in 1995, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin made it clear that political red tape would not hinder the company's investment strategy, Nevo said. However, during the last year, the government has obstructed C&W's plans.

"When C&W first came to Israel and said it was interested in a 20% stake in Bezeq, the government said, 'Why 20%? Why not 40% or 60%?' The company took this as a green light to invest in Israel," said Nevo. "For a year now, they've been telling us to be a good kid and sit on the side."

Earlier media reports stating that the Government Companies Authority, the body in charge of selling state assets, had decided to sell an additional 3%-5% of Bezeq to C&W were unfounded, Nevo said.

According to British tax law, C&W will be in a more favorable position if it doubles its holding in Bezeq.

"C&W would be happy to buy more shares in Bezeq from Merrill Lynch [which has a 12.4% stake in the company] or on the stock market, but they need the govern-

ment's approval," he said. "Right now we are stuck."

Moshe Leon, the prime minister's adviser on privatization, declined to discuss the issue, saying negotiations with C&W are at an advanced stage. The Government Companies Authority and the Communications Ministry also declined to comment.

Sources say concern about companies falling into foreign hands is the main reason the government has not yet approved C&W's request.

The government is scheduled to

issue 10% of Bezeq shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange later this month, reducing its holding in the company to 53%.

Meanwhile, Bezeq's board of directors is scheduled to meet today to discuss allegations that Telrad Telecommunications and Electronic Industries and Tadiran Telecommunications, both subsidiaries of Koor Industries, colluded to fix prices and cooperate in Bezeq bids.

Nevo said the company will consider all its options, including suing the entities involved.



### Fresh brew

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is handed a cup of coffee by a robot which prepared the brew for him at the Epsilon high-tech factory in Dimona's Tened Industrial Park. Sharansky visited the area amid negotiations with the Treasury and Interior Ministry over ways to reduce property taxes charged to industrial concerns.

## Test flights at joint Akaba airport start tomorrow

By DAVID HARRIS

An El Al flight from Vienna will be the first plane to land tomorrow at the joint Israeli-Jordanian airport at Akaba, the Transport Ministry confirmed yesterday.

The four-month trial use of the field was to have commenced yesterday, but the ministry had failed to check that El Al had no flight scheduled until tomorrow.

A joint Israeli-Jordanian security force will check passengers as

they arrive at Shalom Airport. The passengers will then be bused from the airport to a terminal in Eilat, where regular entry procedures will take place.

Initially, the first Israeli flights will be direct Arkia and El Al services from Europe, starting with four flights a week. If the trials prove successful the airport will open to international flights serving both countries.

"We're interested in seeing how convenient the airport is and the reaction of passengers," said El Al

spokesman Nachman Kleiman. Following the arrival of the flight from Vienna, the first departures will be to Leningrad and Frankfurt. Some outbound flights will originate at Ben-Gurion Airport and collect passengers in Eilat.

There are still legal problems to be resolved, according to Transport Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental. Both sides believe they can be resolved within the next few weeks.

Charter flights to the Uvda air-

field are to continue unaffected and for the time being some El Al flights to Europe will also depart from Uvda, because the Akaba runway cannot handle larger aircraft.

The Knesset Economics Committee, meanwhile, yesterday discussed a bill to pave the way for the permanent operation of the airport. Having already passed its first reading, the committee is expected to approve the bill when it next discusses the issue on Monday.

## Study: Israel venture capital 2nd in world

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Israel received more venture capital financing than any other country other than the United States for the second consecutive quarter, UK-accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand reported yesterday.

Ronald Mahau, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand's global high technology practice, said Israel offers "a marvelous entrepreneurial risk-taking attitude. Israeli entrepreneurs exhibit strong intellect and a drive to solve unique problems."

The Third Quarter Money Tree Venture Capital Report released by the accounting and consulting firm yesterday reported that Israel attracted more venture-backed financing than any other foreign country, outpacing Great Britain, the number two country.

Israel had 11 technology deals as compared to Britain's four. Israel's deals garnered \$28.3 million in the second quarter and an additional \$28.1 m. for the third quarter.

Israel has the highest per capita concentration of scientists and engineers in the world and is regarded as a hotbed of innovation with 2,000 high-tech companies.

Only six years ago, the country had but one venture capital fund, as against more than 50 now, with assets estimated at close to \$2 billion. The report said these funds attract a prestigious list of investors including, AT&T's pension fund, Chase Capital, Hancock Ventures and the MIT Endowment Fund.

The influx of investment and the growth of Israel's high tech industry have been a boon to exports. According to recent figures, high tech exports are expected to total \$9b., up from \$7b. last year.

### Lockheed chief: Mergers vital for Israeli defense firms

The chairman of Lockheed Martin said yesterday consolidation and privatization are important for the future of Israel's defense firms.

Norman Augustine spoke to leaders of defense companies in Tel Aviv at the invitation of Moshe Peled, a Defense Ministry adviser on military industries.

"In the case of the US defense industry, consolidating and merging was terribly important. The only alternative was for everybody to be very inefficient and for everybody to kind of gradually die off," Augustine said.

"So, I tend to think... that consolidation and merging is an important part of whatever might be the future of Israel's defense industries. I also think that privatization is an important part. That's a personal opinion," he said in response to a question.

Augustine said building "linkages with companies outside Israel" is also crucial for the future of Israeli firms.

Peled heads a defense ministry team studying the future of Israeli military manufacturers. Ha'arets said last month the committee is recommending privatization of three government-owned defense firms - Israel Aircraft Industries, TAAS - Israel Industries, and Rafael (the Armaments Development Authority) - and their consolidation with private sector Elbit Systems and Tadiran.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has vowed to privatize most government companies, but defense firms are expected to be among the last, because of security considerations and powerful labor unions.

IAI, TAAS, and Rafael develop and manufacture military parts and systems for Israel and foreign markets. Tadiran, a subsidiary of Koor Industries Ltd., and Elbit are publicly traded electronics companies with civilian and military products.

TAAS and IAI are expected to show profits this year after years of heavy losses.

(Reuters)

## Boeing takes to the skies to land El Al deal

As the deadline draws near for El Al to choose between Boeing or Airbus for its new fleet of medium and short range aircraft, Boeing yesterday pulled out all the stops in an effort to win the order.

El Al plans to purchase five planes for an estimated \$200 million, and was expected to decide on a supplier by the end of December.

Yesterday Boeing took a group of journalists, travel agents and favored El Al passengers for a test flight of its new 737-800, which the airline is contemplating as a vehicle to take passengers to its most distant European destinations of London, Madrid or Lisbon.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said that Boeing has recommended accommodating 162 passengers on the aircraft.

But El Al has asked for a seating configuration for 150, to offer more leg room than European competitors, particularly for business class passengers, Kleiman said.

The aircraft is expected to provide a lot of leg room and food trays distanced comfortably from the largest of stomachs, even in tourist class.

Indirect ceiling lights also convey a feeling of roominess. An optional handrail on the overhead

compartment appears tailor-made for El Al, whose passengers are known to move around the plane as soon as it is airborne.

The aircraft also features seats which can be transformed from six abreast for tourist class, to five abreast for Boeing, then its chief test pilot and finally a vice president.

Wygale said that he was very happy that Boeing had called him out of retirement to join the presentation team.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who arrived after the flight to meet Boeing officials, said that the US had not exerted any political pressure on Israel to choose the American manufacturer.

Kleiman said that Airbus would present an aircraft to compete with Boeing's bid on November 25.

Meanwhile El Al has opened a telephone line to give passengers an opportunity to have a say about which aircraft should be purchased. The number is 03-6388886.

Subscribe now  
**GLOBES**  
Israel's Financial Daily  
03-697-9254

**DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**  
If you don't have e-mail  
or even a computer you can still advertise!

**INTERNET POST CLASSIFIEDS**  
Reach all of Israel and the world for just:

- For Two weeks \$13 US Dollars/NIS 45
- One Month \$25 US Dollars/NIS 88
- Two Month \$45 US Dollars/NIS 158
- Three Months \$70 US Dollars/NIS 245
- Six Months \$130 US Dollars/NIS 456

Maximum 30 words  
List category and sub-

Message

Don't forget your contact address, phone, fax, e-mail in your message.

Fax this form: In US & Canada, 212-599-4743  
In Israel & the rest of the world: 972-2-531-5622  
or place your ad directly on our web site at <http://www.ipost.co.il>

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Card type \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

**Ministry of Finance**  
**THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL**

Estimates are invited for the collection and disposal of waste paper and cardboard boxes from government ministries and government hospitals all over the country.

**Tender No. 16/97: Collection and disposal of waste paper and cardboard boxes from government ministries and government hospitals**

Last date for submitting bids: Sunday, December 7, 1997, at 12 noon.

Applications for the tender documents should be made by fax only, to 02-531-7778, giving the following information:

Tender no. \_\_\_\_\_ Subject of Tender \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of company bidding \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Trader's no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Company's address (inc. postal code) \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Bank at which the company has its account \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch no. \_\_\_\_\_ Account no. \_\_\_\_\_

The tender documents and technical specifications will be mailed following the receipt of a fax containing the above details.

Our address: Tenders and Buying Dept., The Accountant General, Finance Ministry, 1 Rehov Kaplan, 7th Floor, Room 714 or 715, or P.O.B. 13195, Jerusalem 91131.

Additional details from Tel. 02-531-7428, 02-531-7418.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

**TARGET** (מטרה)

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 4.11.97  
Purchase Price: 132.0  
Redemption Price: 130.09

**PRIME** (פרימ) (מטרה)

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 4.11.97  
Purchase Price: 119.48  
Redemption Price: 117.92

**"A fax for you"**  
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes!

15 minutes and you're gone...

**ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

מכון המס הכחול

MISHTANIM LEADING TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Includes Alon Hotel, Bank Leumi 0.1, Bimot, etc.

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Includes Agri, Oof, Oron, etc.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Includes ATX Bond A, Alon, Ace Spade, etc.

Main table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists various companies and their stock prices.

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Nordan, Nof, Nofco, etc.

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Amex, An Israel Paper Mills, etc.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like A.C. Associates, Alpin, etc.

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Blue Square, Bristol, etc.

LONDON

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Bata, Drexel, etc.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Alpi, Amc, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Last, Change. Lists companies like Amron, Ashdod, etc.

Vertical text on the left side: 'I stake to more activity', 'Study: Israel venture capital 2nd in world', 'Lockheed chief: Merge vital for Isra defense firm'.

Handwritten text at the top: 'מכירת הארץ'.













Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro

Long-Lotz cisterns

One of the great mysteries of the Negev is the fact that in ancient times the area apparently supported a far larger population than it does today.

have been built as part of King Solomon's effort to settle and defend his southern border. Today they still provide unexpected clusters of vegetation.

vouch for the quality of the water. The pools themselves are large holes in the ground, which have been carefully lined with stones. Part of the wall of the cistern is built to form a circular stairway going down so that those who use the cistern can gather even the last drops of water during the dry season, as well as clear away the plants growing inside.

both sides of the road, and many of them are identified by signs. Just remember that although this part of the Negev may be a desert, it is about 950 meters above sea level, so it can get very cold on some winter days and bitterly cold at night.

Weekender Travel



This cistern near Mitzpe Ramon is believed to have been built by King Solomon to settle and defend his southern border.

On a Limb

By Sybil Ehrlich



A different way to see the Negev

Donkey's years back in time

ing overnight donkey trips. The tiny community of Ezuz, about 12 km. south of Nitzana on the Egyptian border, is so remote it is not connected to the national electricity grid or water system.

heading in the right direction when I see, visible for a considerable distance across the flat desert landscape, the large stone water tower which is all that remains of the Nitzana (Uja el-Hafic) station.

ished. Nitzana, like Petra in Jordan, was an important station on the spice route. We pass a large rectangular stone structure, reminiscent of Solomon's Pools south of Bethlehem. Our guide tells us it is a Nabatean reservoir.

A delicious breakfast, including locally made cheeses, is served in a stone structure that was built as a water tank for the Turkish locomotives.

white, some four meters long and about 35 centimeters high. Finger-like projections point in all directions. Again, this is something whose exact location remains a secret. The previous group of 80 participants was not privileged to see such a sight for obvious practical reasons.

ert topping

What could be more relaxing than a leisurely donkey ride in the wilds of the western Negev? Offer Hartuv of Be'erotayim Tours, based at Ezuz, runs various activities, includ-

Advertisement for Joan Peters' book 'The Jerusalem Puzzle' with contact information for the Jerusalem Post.

Large advertisement for 'TO THE NEGEV' tour, featuring a large arrow graphic and detailed text about the tour's itinerary and pricing.

Advertisement titled 'Where to eat in Israel' listing various restaurants in Eilat, Herzliya Pituah, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv with their addresses and phone numbers.

Advertisement for 'THE JERUSALEM POST INTERNATIONAL EDITION' with subscription information and contact details.

Advertisement for '100 Continuous Days at special rate' with contact information for a special tourism column.





